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City of Barrie

Minutes - Final

Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee

Tuesday, March 2, 2021 | **10:00 AM** | **Virtual Meeting**

For consideration by the City Building Committee on April 6, 2021.

The meeting was called to order by the Chair, Councillor, K. Aylwin at 10:04 a.m. The following were in attendance for the meeting:

Present: 10 - Councillor K. Aylwin
Councillor A. Kungl
A. McNair - Nature Barrie
E. Jacoby-Hawkins
E. vanWesenbeeck
J. Northcote
K. Patterson-McGrath
S. Diaz - SMDHU
T. Searls
W. Steimle

Absent: 1 - M. Kavanagh

STAFF:
Committee Support Clerk, B. Thompson
Committee Support Clerk, T. McArthur
Infrastructure Planning Engineer, B. Gratrix
Manager of Energy Management, A. McMullin
Supervisor of Urban Forestry and Natural Areas Stewardship, K. Rankin.

The Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee met and reports as follows:

COMMUNITY ENERGY PLAN AND GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION PLAN

Adam McMullin, Manager of Energy Management, provided an update on the Community Energy Plan and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan.

Mr. McMullin advised that the City was successful in receiving funding from the Province to assist in moving forward with the Plan. He discussed the data gathered over six months to map out energy and greenhouse gas emission intensity within the community and will be used to come up with activities and strategies to reduce emissions in energy consumption. Mr. McMullin commented on the Project Team for the Community Energy Plan and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Plan and that a Stakeholder Advisory Group was established to shape the Plan with their expertise and specific knowledge and perspectives.

Members of the Committee provided feedback and suggestions such as increasing ridership and different incentives for individuals on limited income and seniors as a strategy and the possibility of green roof installations as an initiative. Mr. McMullin advised that transportation is a huge source of greenhouse gas emissions and moving from the personal vehicle to public transit will be a future activity.

Councillor Aylwin discussed the Council's direction to investigate the possibility of free transit for high school students and discounted or free transit for people with disabilities on Ontario Disability Service Plan (ODSP) or Ontario Works (OW). He suggested a future agenda item to have staff in Transit and Parking Strategy to provide an update to the Committee.

ENERGY RETROFITS USING LOCAL IMPROVEMENT CHARGES

Mr. McMullin, Manager of Energy Management discussed the energy retrofits by using local improvement charges in which allows municipalities to establish programs that residents can afford. He commented on programs to implement retrofits in residential homes with the cost to be applied to their property taxes. Mr. McMullin discussed the Clean Air partnership wherein the City would participate in a market characterization study, that it is a prerequisite of the Green Municipal Fund to apply for future funding to support the program.

The Committee discussed the meaning of a deep retrofit, the jurisdictions targeted for certain types of retrofits such as replacing old windows or inefficient attic insulation. Mr. McMullin explained the difference between a deep retrofit and a traditional retrofit noting that a deep retrofit is looking at a building, more particularly the heating, and reducing the heating

requirements of that building. He advised that incentive programs are available.

SIDEWALK ACCESSIBILITY AND SAFETY

Councillor Aylwin provided a background on previous discussions regarding City's sidewalks and improving pedestrianization. He noted that similar subjects and ideas have been discussed at other City Advisory Committee meetings such as the Seniors Advisory and Accessibility Advisory Committees.

Cheryl Dillon, Disability Management Specialist advised that the new Official Plan would encompass universal design practices that will affect and change the community and the streetscape of the community from an accessibility perspective going forward. She noted that the Ontario Provincial Design Standards used when creating transportation infrastructure has been in line with the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act* since 2015, and that staff in the Infrastructure Department follow the accessibilities best practices in designing sidewalks and roadway infrastructure.

The Committee asked Ms. Dillon several questions related to snow clearing, sidewalk size, rules of bicycle riding and accessibility of sidewalks in the winter, and received responses from Ms. Dillon.

Kevin Rankin, Supervisor of Urban Forestry and Natural Areas Stewardship advised that the sidewalks are maintained to the Minimum Standard Maintenance Standard of Ontario.

PEDESTRIAN AND BICYCLE FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES DESIGNATION

Councillor Aylwin discussed the possibility of a subcommittee to look at the possibility of the City applying to be designated as a Pedestrian and Bicycle Friendly Community.

The Committee suggested going through the application checklist and pick out items that can be achieved by next year, as well as ideas to assist in attaining the designation such as communication and interaction and educating residents.

Brett Gratrix, Infrastructure Planning Engineer advised of the Cycle Barrie Infrastructure Program that contains that could assist in putting the City in a better position within a year or two and that the education outreach could be a component within the Cycle Barrie Program as it had a consultant develop an education outreach program to market as a bridging gap. Mr. Gratrix provided other suggestions such as the consideration of the safety concerns and participation with the Ontario Traffic Council on the Vision Zero Guideline Development.

The Committee agreed that they are not ready to make an application currently and may possibly apply next year. Councillor Kungl suggested adding this to the Committee's workplan and choosing where to focus attention.

Brett Gratrix advised that staff are currently working on the Request for Proposal (RFP) to retain a consultant with the program timeframe of 12 to 16 months. He noted that public engagement session will be held throughout the process, as well as a potential Stakeholders Advisory Group to provide input, and that members of the Active Transportation and Sustainability Committee could take part in.

NATURALIZATION OF CROMPTON PARK SUBCOMMITTEE

Councillor Kungl advised that there are currently no updates to this matter, and that it be moved to the next meeting.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION AND SUSTAINABILITY WEBPAGE

The Committee discussed ideas and items to add to the Active Transportation and Sustainability webpage located on the City's Website.

Brett Gratrix, Transportation Planning Lead recommended speaking with Access Barrie and Information Technology Department, particularly the GIS group about the webpage and will report back to the Committee for the next meeting.

COMMITTEE REVIEW - URBAN DESIGN GUIDELINES

Councillor Aylwin summarized previous Committee discussions regarding the new Official Plan (OP). He suggested the subcommittee from the first draft of the OP, meet again to provide further feedback on the second draft of the OP and the Urban Design Guidelines set to be released in May, 2021.

The Committee agreed to add this matter to the next meeting for further discussion.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:02 p.m.

CHAIRMAN